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THE CARE OF IMMIGRANTS.

The impending changes in the personnel of the immigration bureau in New York and the investigations which are being set on foot by President Roosevelt and in Congress again call attention to the shameful wrongs that are inflicted upon the thousands of immigrants who annually arrive at that port. It may be possible that abuses of a similar kind exist at other ports of entry, but at any rate they are not supposed to be as flagrant, nor has public attention been focused upon them. The scandals connected with the treatment of immigrants on their arrival at the New York barge office are nothing less than abhorrent.

It is quite likely that while the officials in charge may be to blame the entire system under which immigrants are admitted and controlled is at fault. That it has serious shortcomings has long been admitted. That it has afforded and does afford opportunities to unscrupulous officials to impose upon immigrants is a well-known fact. Unscrupulous officials have been practiced upon poor, ignorant and helpless men and women under the guise and protection of law; hardly a month passes but that the public is startled with some story of brutality, and even worse than that, on the part of immigration officials.

It is high time that all this should cease. While the conditions under which foreigners may emigrate to this country may well be made more stringent, in order that the most desirable class of immigrants may be secured, every possible precaution should be taken to insure them a considerate and hospitable official reception on their landing here and every safeguard should be provided to protect them in their persons and property.

SEVERAL POUNDS OF PREVENTION.

Health Officer Woodward deserves cordial commendation and the earnest co-operation of the medical fraternity and citizens generally in his efforts to devise effective checks against the propagation and spread of consumption. For many years past the deaths from this disease have constituted a large percentage of the mortality record of the District, and any movement looking to a diminution of the death ratio from this cause is entitled to support.

While the treatment of a case of consumption necessarily falls within the province of the physician, there can be no doubt that much such a case might be prevented by the observance of very simple rules. It is no less certain that contagion from consumption may be obviated by equally simple precautions. It is with reference to these two points that Dr. Woodward's utterances on the subject are especially impressive.

In a circular letter emanating from Dr. Woodward stress is laid upon the fact that consumption is not necessarily contagious, and the public is warned against becoming unduly frightened by the agitation of this matter, which, at the present time, appears to be in favor with a great many sanitarians in different parts of the country. The hygienic conditions which, in Dr. Woodward's opinion, will act as a preventive of the inception or the dissemination of the disease are sufficiently simple and inexpensive to commend themselves for adoption by everybody, no matter how poor or inexperienced in matters of sanitation.

Moreover, the public is assured by Dr. Woodward of the prompt and energetic co-operation of the Health Department in any undertaking having for its object the carrying out of the precautionary measures which he recommends.

THE BLESSINGS OF SCARCITY.

A recent writer sighs for "the days of a blessed scarcity, when the few things we had were worth while." This kind of remark is often heard nowadays, especially from people past middle age, and in spite of all our boasted progress there is some sense in it.

The trouble is, however, that blessed scarcity is only blessed when everybody else is in the same circumstances. There is nothing lovely about it when the scarcity is confined to one household, or two or three, among others possessing an abundance. It is probable that if there were to be a sudden change of fashion demanding that every man and woman should go about in the blanket costume of the Indian nobody would feel that there was any particular hardship in it. In the days when the beaux wore ruffled linen, gay costumes, and velvet and brocade, and belles wore an elaboration of dress such as is now only seen on state occasions, it would have been hard for any young man or woman to have appeared in the gay company in the ordinary street dress of today. It is all a matter of custom and habit, and other people's opinions.

There is something rather comfortable about scarcity, there is no denying that. After a certain point in the accumulation of possessions you get the feeling that instead of owning your things they own you. The man who has all sorts of valuable belongings to take care of has considerably more worry, oftentimes, than he whose whole earthly store is under his own hat. The uncomfotableness of the latter situation comes in when the man who has nothing but the clothes he stands up in has to encounter the owner of landed estates on something like equal terms. If he can gather together philosophy enough to reflect that, after all, he has just as good a right to like himself as the other man has, and just as good a chance to be all that is likable and admirable, his self-respect will remain intact; otherwise it may not.

CURRENT PRESS COMMENT.

As Might Have Been Expected.

New York World—From his naming a vessel in the German navy the Alice Roosevelt one would judge that Kaiser Wilhelm is fairly satisfied with Brother Henry's account of his American tour.

No Chance for Arbitration There.

Baltimore Herald—The Civic Federation may now be able to fully understand how weak and futile are all human schemes. Chicago dressmakers have formed an organization and propose to dictate various things.

Let the Dragon Beware.

Baltimore American—The assignment of Fighting Bob Evans to the Asiatic station may be but the preliminary to a future book on "How I Effectuated the Partition of China."

Plenty Soiled Linen to Wash.

Philadelphia Inquirer—The official band of one of the boroughs in New York City wears diamonds and a seal-like coat. And this under a reform administration!

Not on That Vessel.

Pittsburgh Chronicle-Herald—The naming of a German naval vessel the Alice Roosevelt is all very well, but where do American boys and canned goods come in?

Miracle in South America.

Cincinnati Enquirer—Brazil has elected a new President without a revolution. And it is one of the youngest of the Republics.

Trying It on the States.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat—Colonel Bryan's plan seems to be to try some of his favorite issues in the State elections this year, and then drop the unpopular ones before 1904.

Satisfied.

Chicago Record-Herald—Mrs. Astor refuses to grant any more interviews. Evidently the lady knows when she has had enough.

Not So Bad—For Constantinople.

Chicago Inter-Ocean—It is impossible that we may yet be compelled, in the interest of humanity, to take Constantinople ourselves?

An Undying Passion.

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune—It may be true that absence conquers love, but it doesn't cease David Bennett Hill's hankering for the White House.

Perhaps Only an Exception.

New York Press—The celebrity of Colonel Clowry's progress from messenger boy to the presidency of Western Union shatters the tradition that modern Mercuries wear wings of lead.

And Lots of It, Too.

Pittsburgh Dispatch—The Ecclectic Club of New York is next going to discuss the question "Can a Man Love Two Women?" He can. But if he tries to love them both at the same time he is laying up trouble for himself.

A BETTER COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW NEEDED.

By ALEXANDER T. STUART, Superintendent of the District Schools.

According to the report of the Commissioner of Education for 1897-98 thirty States, one Territory, and the District of Columbia have laws making attendance at school obligatory in prescribed conditions. A law compelling the attendance of children at school between the ages of eight and fourteen for at least twelve weeks in every year has been on the statute books of the District of Columbia for many years, but has never been enforced. Why it was not enforced at the time immediately following its enactment I do not know—presumably because no attendance officer was provided by law to carry out its provisions.

This is the law:

"Every person in the District of Columbia having under control any child between the ages of eight and fourteen years shall annually, during the continuance of such control, send such child to some public school in that part of the District in which he shall at the time reside at least twelve weeks, six of which shall be consecutive, and for every neglect of such duty the party offending shall forfeit to the use of the school of that portion of the District in which he resides a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, to be recovered before any justice of the peace of the District.

"If upon the hearing of any case provided for in the preceding section it shall be made to appear to the justice that the party so offending was not able for any cause to send such child to school, or that the child has been attending any other school for a like period of time, or that the child by reason of bodily or mental infirmity was not fit to attend such school, the penalty shall not be enforced.

"The trustees or school board having charge of public schools in the District may make such arrangements for the purpose of ascertaining whether any children within the ages prescribed by law are not attending the public schools as they shall deem best for the purpose of enforcing the attendance of such children upon said schools, under the provisions of the two preceding sections."

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First—Authorized agents or attendance officers. Second—Adequate accommodations in the various buildings for the increased number of children who would be brought into the schools by such a law.

Third—A penalty rigorous enough to compel the respect of parents whose indifference or apathy inspires them to rob their children of the chance for getting an education.

Compulsory education laws in many States are greatly aided in their enforcement by kindred laws forbidding child-labor under a certain age in factories or in mercantile establishments. Washington has probably relatively few children of this class, and yet the large enrollment in our night schools during the past winter would indicate that even here there are many children of school age engaged in business in one way or another during the day.

In view of the defects in the existing law we should have legislation based on the best experience of other cities where compulsory education laws are in successful operation.

UNDER THE CAPITOL DOME.

Regret Over Mr. Miers' Retirement.

The announcement made by Representative Miers last week of his withdrawal from the contest for the Democratic nomination in the Second Indiana district is deeply and sincerely regretted by members on both sides of the chamber. No man in either party is more highly respected than he, both for his ability as a statesman and his personal character and integrity.

Although a Democrat of the old school, unwavering in his loyalty, there is never anything offensive in his partisanship. A forceful and logical speaker, a diligent and conscientious worker during his three terms in Congress, he has won the esteem of all his associates in the House.

Mr. Miers represents one of the four districts of the Hoosier State now held by the Democrats, and in which a nomination carries with it the practical assurance of an election. Consequently this year there has been a lively contest for the nomination, and for some reason not understood in Washington Mr. Miers' constituents have indicated a desire for another man.

Rather than enter into a fight which might divide his party into factions and thus perhaps endanger the loss of the district, Mr. Miers has magnanimously decided to surrender his own personal ambitions and withdraw from the race, leaving the field clear for his rivals.

"Realizing the fact that the district is almost certain to return a Democrat," said Judge Crumacker, a Republican colleague, the other day, "no Democrat in my State is held in greater esteem, and I know that the entire delegation will regret the fact that he is not to be a candidate this fall."

Mr. Miers is the ranking Democratic member of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, a committee which undoubtedly does more hard work than any other in the House save the Appropriations Committee. In case of a Democratic House next year Mr. Miers would be the chairman of the committee.

He is the unfailing friend of the old soldier, and his voice has always been heard in his behalf in committee and on the floor of the House.

Great Fighting District.

The Republican Legislature of Illinois in redistricting the State has placed Representative Frederick J. Kern in the Twenty-second district. He now represents the Twenty-first. The new district from which Mr. Kern will make another race for Congress this fall is the most notable in the State of Illinois. In fact it is the old Morrison district, and it is, to use Mr. Kern's expression, "the worst fighting district in Illinois."

Col. William R. Morrison, the father of the famous "horizontal tariff bill," afterward called "Horizontal Bill," represented the district in Congress for a number of years. He was defeated by John Baker, who was elected as a Republican and later as a Democrat. They still live in the same district. Mr. Baker is totally blind.

In the coming Congressional fight Representative Kern will have as his opponent Civil Service Commissioner Rodenberg, whose resignation, taken effect the 1st of April, Mr. Rodenberg was the Republican nominee for Congress two years ago and was defeated by Mr. Kern. The population of the Twenty-second district is cosmopolitan and metropolitan. They are working people. The district is Republican, but the Democrats say they have a fighting chance.

Personal Notes About Washington People.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Auerbach have returned from a short trip to Atlantic City. Mr. Orson Smith, of Chicago, is a guest of his niece, Mrs. H. J. Reilly, 1408 Twenty-first Street.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Templeton, of Chicago, are here for a stay of several months, and are located at 512 Maryland Avenue northeast.

Senator and Mrs. Teller, who are at the Colonial, have with them their daughter, Mrs. George E. Tyler, of Denver, Col.

Mrs. George W. Sheridan, of Bridgeport, Conn., is visiting the city, renewing the friendship of her youth. She is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Perkins, at 623 Morris Street northeast.

Mrs. Frank Burke, of this city, is at Palm Beach, where she will remain until after Easter.

The Wines of California Lauded.

Representative Coombs, sometimes known as "The Ambassador," from the fact that he was formerly United States Minister to Japan, comes from the great wine-producing section of California, and he has been very much gratified during the recent hearings on the pure food bill to hear many pleasant things said about the product of the Golden State vines.

Mr. Coombs is a member of the Committee on Commerce, which is conducting the hearings. The other day a witness told the committee that Spain was purchasing wines in California and shipping them to the home of the Dons where they were being used to flavor and blend with the wines of that country.

While Prof. Bigelow, of the Department of Agriculture, was making his statement before the committee he told of an experience he had once had in purchasing wines in New York.

"I went into a small wine store," said Prof. Bigelow, "and asked for a bottle of Rhine wine. The proprietor was out, but an accommodating Irishman waited upon me. I asked him where the wine came from. He said that he could not recall the name of the place, but he was certain that it was a very fine article because it came from somewhere in California."

"For a good judge of drink commend me to an Irishman," remarked Mr. Coombs.

Congressional "Cave Dwellers."

Members of Congress who have their committee rooms in the terrace are unfortunate, and they know it, but their more fortunate colleagues make their lot even harder by poking fun at them.

The term "cave dwellers" is now very generally used as a term of opprobrium for them. Thus it happens that some of the cave dwellers are a trifle touchy on the subject.

A day or two ago one of the elevator men got a three-bells call from an upper story and another at the same time from the sub-basement. He went upstairs first and then went after the cave dweller.

And the latter gentleman made trouble for him. He wished to know, in terse, not to say choppy, language if even the elevator men intended to slight the people in the sub-basement.

Hard Worked Committee.

When it comes to committee work no committee of the House is in it with the Committee on Invalid Pensions, of which Representative St. Sullivan, the tallest man in either house of Congress, is chairman. There are fifteen members on the committee, and on Mondays and Fridays they are kept on the jump considering private pension bills.

Every member of the committee has his work mapped out for him and each and every one is called upon to write reports, which nine times out of ten, provided the bill comes within the rule, are favorable. Since the appointment of the committee on the 19th of last December over 400 House private pension bills and 150 Senate bills have been reported to the House, and more than three-fourths of the bills have been passed. This is a splendid record on which Chairman Sullivan prides himself. He says he has the best working members of any committee in the House, and that everything in the committee runs as smooth as oil out of a barrel.

Mrs. Flagler, widow of Gen. D. W. Flagler, is convalescing from a serious illness which has confined her to her house for the past two months.

Mr. Frederick T. Martin, who has been at Palm Beach all winter, will spend the Easter holidays with Gen. and Mrs. Rochester, of Eighteenth Street.

Mr. Walter M. Fuller, of this city, is at the Hotel Rennett, Baltimore.

Mrs. Clayton W. Boyd, formerly of Norfolk, is now residing in this city at 2221 F Street northwest. Mrs. Boyd, as State Superintendent of physical culture for the W. C. T. U. of Virginia, conducted a series of medal contests in education which resulted in splendid service for the temperance cause of the Old Dominion.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Kohner have returned from their wedding trip, and are located in their new home on M Street northwest.

The New Woman at a Fire.

Somebody has remarked on the business-like way in which the girls of Bryn Mawr College conducted themselves at the fire in that institution. The hall which was burned was one of the dormitories, and contained the possessions of numerous young women. They did not scream, or faint, or lose their heads, but took their places in the fire brigade, and worked so effectively that the fire was extinguished without anybody being hurt, and without excessive damage to the property.

Moreover, fifteen of the candidates for the degree of Ph. D. succeeded in saving their theses, which proves that the Scripture question, "Can a maid forget her ornaments?" may possibly be answered, "Yes, if she happens to be thinking more about something else."

The same kind of courage and coolness was shown two or three years ago at the burning of Mount Holyoke College. In that case the whole building was burned, but most of the property of the students was saved by their unaided exertions. This fact is the more remarkable when it is noted that the building was five stories high, housed 300 or more students, and was old-fashioned in its construction, so that the fire quickly gained headway. It was impossible to save the building, but no lives and no heads were lost, and no many wardrobes.

Like a good many other varieties of feminine efficiency, this is the result more of determination or eccentricity, but of circumstances. It is unlikely that women will ever aspire to positions in the fire department of a big city, but they can fight fire when they have to, and they are trained, in the large women's colleges, to do so as effectively as possible. A fire drill is part of the routine of most of these institutions. When several hundred girls are gathered in a settlement by themselves, it is highly desirable that they should not all go distracted in case a fire breaks out.

Collapsible Buildings.

Gen. William Sooy Smith has caused something of a commotion in Chicago by his statement that the steel framework in the Chicago "skyscraper" is corroding so fast that it is only a question of a few years when these buildings will fall to the ground. He said that the way to make such frameworks safe was to have them imbedded in concrete, when they would last two thousand years.

This is startling information, and, if true, it is tragic. The question is, however, what practical effect it will have. When one considers the American proclivity for taking risks it is to be feared that the results of General Smith's speech will be nil, so far as any change in the building laws or any reform of the affected buildings is concerned.

The chances are that nothing will be done and that the whole thing will be forgotten until one of these skyscrapers actually does fall, and if it should happen to fall in any such way as did the Pemberton Mill in a Massachusetts manufacturing town some fifty years ago, the consequences would be too horrible to think about. It may be remembered that the collapse of this mill was caused by the breaking of a defective iron pillar after some unusually heavy machinery had been hoisted into the upper floors of the building.

The pillar, which had stood ordinary strain, although known to be defective, gave way at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when all hands were on duty, and the great mill went down, burying hundreds of operatives in the ruins. There has never been a repetition of that particular disaster, but it took a hundred lives to teach the lesson.

What is needed in this connection is better building laws, strenuously enforced, and an intelligent public interest in public safety. Nothing else will do much good.

DOINGS IN THE WORLD OF SOCIETY.

The French Ambassador and Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor to Entertain Dinner Parties Tonight.

Viscount de Alte, the Succeeding Portuguese Minister, Recently Raised to the Rank—M. Cambon Among the Guests Entertained by the Danish Minister at Dinner.

M. Cambon a Dinner Host Tonight.

The French Ambassador has dinner invitations out for this evening. Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor will also entertain at dinner tonight.

The Succeeding Portuguese Minister.

Viscount de Alte, who has been selected by the Portuguese Government to succeed Viscount de Santo Thyrao as Minister to this Capital, has recently been raised to his present rank. He was formerly known as *Senhor Jose Francisco da Franca*. He belongs to a family of Portuguese diplomats, his grandfather having represented his country at Russia nearly a century ago. He is about forty years old, and has recently been transferred from St. Petersburg, where he held the post of *Charge d'Affaires*.

A Birthday Box Party.

Miss Minnie Schneider gave a box party to the Lafayette Saturday night to celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of her birth. After the performance of "Blossoms" the party enjoyed a supper at Rauscher's. Mrs. Martin Schneider and Mrs. H. L. Dauterich chaperoned the party of twelve.

The additional guests were Miss Carrie Muehleisen, Miss Annie Loffer, Miss Minnie Mueller, Miss Minnie Lederer, Miss Maud Schmidt, Miss Molly Quigley, Miss Annie Watson, Miss Lena Dismer, and Miss Freda Dismer.

School Friends to Be Her Guests.

Miss Lucy Edmonston, 2000 Q Street northwest, who will be at home from school on Wednesday for the Easter holidays, will have as guests several of her school friends, Miss Charles of North Carolina, Miss Kenny, of Indianapolis; Miss Coleman, of Trenton, N. J., and Miss Walshe, of Wesley Heights.

Dinner Guests of Danish Minister.

The dinner guests entertained by the Danish Minister on Saturday evening included the French Ambassador, the Counselor of the French Embassy and Mme. de Margerie, the Misses Patten, the Misses Leiter, and Signor Riano, *Charge d'Affaires* of Spain.

Mrs. Parker Her Mother's Guest.

Mrs. Parker, wife of Lieut. James T. Parker, United States Army, has returned from the Philippines and with her little son is visiting her mother, Mrs. H. K. Lemly, at Chevy Chase.

Visiting Her Sister.

Miss Peebles, of Norfolk, Va., will be the guest of her sister, Mrs. Dudley, at the Montrose, for several weeks.

A Progressive Euchre.

A progressive euchre was given Thursday evening by Mr. and Mrs. H. Maddox at their residence, 1322 Wallach Place. The parlor was tastefully decorated with palms and ferns.

First ladies' prize was won by Miss Stuart and second by Mrs. Bynum. First gentlemen's prize fell to Mr. Stultz and the second to Mr. Dieudonne. Booby to Mrs. Charles Wagner.

After the playing refreshments were served.

Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Stultz, Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Bynum, Mrs. Fugel, the Misses Fugel, Stuart, Farrell, Barclay, Marie Stultz, Messrs. Dieudonne, J. T. Tilton, Will Maddox, and Charles Wagner.

Silver Wave Social Club Dance.

The members of the Silver Wave Social Club will give a dancing reception at St. Joseph's Hall, Fifth and H Streets, tomorrow evening.

GOSSIP AND CHAT HEARD IN WASHINGTON HOTEL LOBBIES

Seventeen Years a Judge.

A noted Georgian journeying at the Shoreham is Judge Emory Speer, who has been a Federal judge for seventeen years, having received his appointment from President Arthur.

In his early manhood he was looked upon as possessed of uncommon intellectual gifts to which was added oratorical talents of the highest order. A great political future seemed in store for him, and no doubt had he stayed in the Democratic party all the predictions of his friends would have been realized. As it was Judge Speer soon demonstrated his independence and contempt of party machinery. He ran for Congress in 1878 against the regular Democratic nominee, was successful, and was re-elected two years later.

"I've always been an independent," said the Judge to a Times man, who referred to the exciting epoch when his candidacy stirred Georgia from the mountains to the sea. "I have my convictions on national affairs, but beg to be excused from saying anything; it isn't seemly for a judge to talk for publication."

Judge Speer would have presided in the trial of Greene and the Gaynors, had they been missing. It was their absence which allowed him the vacation he is now taking from his usual duties.

Retirement of General Miles.

"In my opinion the enforced retirement of Gen. Nelson A. Miles would be a huge political mistake," said Major William M. Palmer, of Haddonfield, N. J., at the New Willard.

Major Palmer is one of the most prominent Grand Army men in the country, and has an excellent military record. He was for many years on the staff of the late Senator Sewell.

"Should General Miles meet with such summary treatment it would anger thousands of old soldiers, members of the Grand Army of the Republic, who think highly of the Lieutenant General of the army, and who believe that his past services entitle him to great consideration. His record shows that he has served the United States faithfully and well. At the most, his offence consisted of too impulsive utterance. In the brief space of two years he will retire in the natural order, and with the honor and credit that are his due. To be thrown out now or at any time prior to the regular retiring period would be the worst sort of humiliation."

Hill Is the Leader.

"There is no doubt that David B. Hill is looked upon as the real leader of the Democracy of New York State," said ex-Congressman Van Voorhis, of Rochester, N. Y., at the Arlington.

"If he does not head the State ticket himself he will name the gubernatorial candidate. I have always been opposed to Governor Hill, politically, but I think him the ablest man in his party today, and if the Democrats are wise he will be the nominee in 1904. He is a much wiser, broader, and stronger man now than he was when he was in the gubernatorial office. His career in the Senate demonstrated his ability and his conservatism."

Friend of Young Men.

The Kansas member of the Republican national committee, Hon. David W. Mulvane, of Topeka, was talking with friends last evening in the lobby of the Raleigh. Mr. Mulvane has a most engaging personality. He is a graduate of Yale, a lawyer, and man of affairs, and an extremely capable politician. He is a friend of the young men in the ranks of the opposition. Should he ever take a notion that he would like to try for political honors on his own account, the chances of his success would be overwhelming.

Indians Pinched for Food.

"A few years ago," said Mr. J. M. Parks, of the Indian Territory, at the Raleigh, "owing to unusual delay in getting in the regular supply of rations to the agency at Anadarko, the Indians of the surrounding reservation were temporarily pinched for food."

"They were so short of provisions that they became very restless, and as day after day passed and no flour or beef arrived some of them grew almost desperate. Finally a few of the impatient element held a meeting and various plans for obtaining speedy relief were proposed. Some of the more conservative ones advocated writing a letter to Washington complaining of the situation and praying for relief. This was thought to be a good idea, but Little Bear, a young Kiowa, opposed it strenuously."

"Maybe," said he, "the letter got lost. Maybe it fell to the floor and nobody picked it up. I think best way is kill somebody; then they hear that quickest thing of all." Finally it was agreed that Little Bear's plan was good, but that they would wait one more day. Then the question came up as to the victim in case it became necessary to remove a pale face. Here again Little Bear came to the front with a logic that was unanswerable.

"No good kill old Smith; he been here so long people all forgot about him; no good kill old Brown—he no 'count. I think best kill agent."

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